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BOROUGH OF NEW ROMNEY (KENT)

Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health and of  
the Public Health Inspector for the Year 1958

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Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1958.

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year Home Population was 2,400 - an increase of 30 over that of the previous year.

Live Births and Rate

The number of live births was 46 (25 M, 21 F) representing an increase of ten over that of the previous year and the crude birth-rate was accordingly 19.17; adjusted by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor which is computed from a population standardised for age and sex distribution, the rate becomes 19.75 and was higher than that of 16.4 for England and Wales.

Stillbirths and Rate

This rate was nil, as there were no stillbirths. The rate for England and Wales was 21.6 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

Infant Deaths and Mortality Rate

There was one neo-natal (seven days from birth) infant death due to (i) Haemorrhagic Disease of the new-born and (ii) Prematurity, and the Infantile Mortality Rate was accordingly 21.74, which approximates to that of 22.5 for England and Wales.

Maternal Deaths and Mortality Rate

This rate was nil, as there were no deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion.

Total Deaths and Death Rate

The total number of deaths from all causes was 37 (20 M, 17 F), and the crude deathrate was 15.42; adjusted by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor, as for births, the rate becomes 13.88 compared with that of 11.7 for England and Wales.

(It should be kept in mind that all these figures are too small for realistic statistical comparisons, as small variations influence the rates disproportionately).

The chief cause of deaths was, as in previous years, Heart and Circulatory Diseases and Vascular Diseases of the Nervous System, all of which are the natural penultimate causes of death amongst the aged. In all there were 19 of these deaths.

Disease of the Coronary Artery of the Heart caused 11 of these deaths or 58%. The ages at death were from 61 to 82 years. Although it is postulated that prolonged mental stress, excessive fat intake, and excessive smoking are contributory causes, the primary cause is still obscure.

Cancer, as in previous years, caused the second highest number of deaths, a total of 8. Procrastination by patients, the majority of whom are senile, allied with the insidious nature of the disease, is the



most common factor associated with late diagnosis. Modern treatment offers every opportunity for success if the diagnosis is made reasonably early.

Cancer of the Lung or Bronchus caused three deaths, all male. The ages at death were 60, 68 and 76 years. Although these figures are too small to relate to any statistical conclusion, it may be significant that all were males, in whom the ratio of smokers is commonly greater than that of women, and also who inhale more excessively.

The other causes of death were miscellaneous and there was no exceptional mortality.

### Infectious Diseases

#### Scarlet Fever

Fifteen cases of this infectious disease were notified.

In its present phase, this disease is mild and all uncomplicated cases are usually treated at home, unless social conditions are adverse.

There is evidence, however, that the strains of Haemolytic Streptococci which cause a sore throat with exudate, but without the appearance of a rash, are becoming more prevalent and that Acute Nephritis with albuminuria is an occasional complication.

#### Whooping Cough

Twelve cases of this distressing children's disease were notified.

It is too early yet to definitely assess the effect of the modern vaccines, which are now available at the Child Welfare Centres, as well as through the family Doctor, but it would appear from a preliminary assessment that vaccination is providing protection against the disease.

The disease is most dangerous when it attacks infants, who are unable to excrete from their lungs the catarrh which the causal organism induces in the bronchi and tracheae, they should therefore be shielded from infection if possible.

#### Measles

There was no outbreak of this infection during the year and only six cases were notified.

An outbreak usually occurs every second year or when a sufficient number of susceptible children has accumulated.

As with Whooping Cough, Broncho-pneumonia is the most serious complication, particularly in infants, but it usually occurs in less than 0.1% of children.

Gamma globulin is available from the Public Health Laboratory at Preston Hall and is occasionally used to protect by passive immunity children who are suffering from another illness.

#### Acute Primary Pneumonia

Twelve cases of this illness were notified, and including the secondary Pneumonias there were two deaths. Having regard to the efficacy of modern treatment, deaths from the Pneumonias chiefly occur amongst aged people, who do not respond so well to treatment and in whom Hypostatic Pneumonia is naturally a concomitant complication.

No other notifiable Infectious Diseases occurred in the Borough during the year.

### Acute Poliomyelitis

Three hundred and forty one children in the Borough received their second inoculations during the year. Although the mass vaccination programme is not yet completed, there is epidemiological evidence from a preliminary assessment that vaccination has already established a barrier against outbreaks of the disease.

### Tuberculosis

Only one new case of Respiratory Tuberculosis was notified and none of Non-Respiratory or Bovine Tuberculosis.

No deaths were registered which is a reflection of the success of modern treatment.

The District has been included within an area specified by the Ministry, in which only designated milks may be sold; this is a great step forward towards the eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis.

The number of new cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis is gradually being reduced each year. In this respect, the Mass Radiography Service plays a valuable part. A visit to the Borough was made in April 1958 and out of a total of 744 persons X-rayed, no active cases were discovered, which is an indication that there is no reservoir of infection within the Borough (see table).

B.C.G. vaccination is also being offered to children before they leave school, as adolescence is a very vulnerable age-group.

It is hoped that the many measures, including those of a social nature, being taken against Tuberculosis will cause its eradication in the foreseeable future.

In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity of thanking you for your interest and assistance in the work of the Public Health Services and also to thank the staff for their co-operation and efficiency.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MARSHALL      M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Central Public Health Office,  
1, Elwick Road,  
Ashford, Kent.

Tel: No: Ashford 1485

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT FOR 1958

Area:- 1,509

Registrar-General's Estimate of:-

The Resident Population	...	...	...	...	2,400
Number of Inhabited Houses According to the Rate Books	...				1,025
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£37,963
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£146

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The ancient and historical Cinque Port Borough of New Romney, is today predominantly an Agricultural District. There are also within the Borough, the workshops of the Romney, Hythe, Dymchurch Light Railway and a few small factories. Part of the boundary is formed by the sea at Littlestone and Greatstone where there are wide expanses of sand which attract many summer visitors and holiday-makers. There is almost no unemployment and social conditions may generally be regarded as being satisfactory.



EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>		<u>New Romney Borough</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
1. Live Births	46	25	21	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	19.17 (Adjusted Rate 19.75)	16.4
(a) Legitimate	42	23	19			
(b) Illegitimate	4	2	2			
2. Stillbirths	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	-	21.6
(a) Legitimate	-	-	-			
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
3. Total live and still- births	46	25	21			
4. Deaths	37	20	17	Death rate per 1,000 resident population	15.42 (Adjusted Rate 13.88)	11.7
5. Deaths from Pregnancy, Child- birth, Abortion	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	-	Not Available
6. Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age	1	1	-	Rate per 1,000 live births	21.74	22.5
(a) Legitimate	1	1	-	Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	23.81	
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	
7. Deaths of infants under Four Weeks of Age	1	1	-	Rate per 1,000 live births	21.74	16.6
(a) Legitimate	1	1	-			
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
8. Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births					8.69	
9. Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	8	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	-	
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	-	
Deaths from Measles	...	...	...	...	-	

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year:-

Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	12
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	12
Measles	...	...	...	...	6
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	15

CAUSES OF DEATH IN NEW ROMNEY BOROUGH

DURING 1958

						<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
ALL CAUSES						20	17
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	1	-
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	3	-
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	-	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	1	2
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	-	-
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	-	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	2	2
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	4	7
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	-	-
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	2	1
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	1	1
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1	1
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	-	-
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	3	1
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	-	-
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	2	-
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	-	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	-	-



TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality, 1958

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>				<u>Total Cases on Register</u>			
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	7	1	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis of patients who had not been notified as suffering from that disease.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

The Mass Radiography Service visited the Borough during April, 1958.

MINIATURE FILMS TAKEN

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
463	600	1,063

ATTENDING MASS RADIOGRAPHY  
FOR THE FIRST TIME

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>
557	51.65

RESULTS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Active Tuberculosis	--	--	-
Inactive Tuberculosis	--	4	4
Cancer of Lung	-	-	-

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Diphtheria Immunisation, Whooping Cough Immunisation and Smallpox Vaccination figures for 1958 based on record cards.

Year of Birth	Diphtheria Immunisation		Smallpox Vaccination		Whooping-cough Immunisation
	Primary	Reinforcing	Primary	Revaccination	Primary
1958	8	-	20	-	13
1957	21	-	14	-	24
1956	1	-	-	-	2
1955	1	-	-	1	1
1954	-	2	1	-	-
1953	2	14	-	-	2
1952	-	6	-	-	-
1951	-	1	-	-	-
1950	-	1	-	-	1
1949	-	-	1	-	-
1948	-	-	-	-	-
1947	-	-	1	-	-
1946	-	-	-	-	-
1945	-	-	-	1	-
1944	-	-	-	-	-
Before 1944	-	-	1	6	-
Total	33	24	38	8	43



IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, 1958

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1958, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1944).

Year of Birth	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether Primary or Booster)																
1954 - 1958	20	3	4	12	41	42	40	40	25	37	29	32	30	26	8	369
1953 or earlier	13	27	35	32	20	14	5	16	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	171

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION, 1958

The following table gives the numbers of persons resident in the district who received injections against poliomyelitis during the year ended 31st December, 1958

Year of Birth	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	Others	Total
Given two injections	-	16	27	29	17	2	17	35	26	17	23	21	25	16	22	20	341
Given third injection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Housing

(a)	Number of new houses erected - Private	...	...	...	18
	Municipal	...	...	...	Nil
(b)	Number of families on Council's waiting list at 31.12.58	...			46
(c)	<u>Existing Private Houses</u>				
	Number rendered fit after service of informal notice	...			8
	Number rendered fit after service of Statutory Notice	...			1
	Number of Houses Demolished	...			7
(d)	<u>Improvement Grants</u>				

One previous year's application was carried out for provision of Bathroom at a cost of £566 - Grant issued £150

Water Supply

Water is supplied by the Folkestone and District Water Company. Samples of this water taken throughout the district have been of satisfactory bacteriological quality.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

During the year a stormwater lagoon was provided at the Sewage treatment works, and a £200,000 scheme for re-drainage and extensions to cover 70% of houses, submitted to Government and K.C.C. Departments.

Total number of inhabited houses (including flats) is	...	...	1,058
Total number of houses connected to the sewers	...	...	407
Number of houses not connected to the sewers	...	...	651
Number of premises connected to cesspools and other forms	...	...	651
Number of premises with pail closets	...	...	Nil

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The old refuse collection vehicle was replaced in July with a Harrier Bantam Dual Tip vehicle. Two men are employed supplemented as necessary by an additional loader

Salvage

Wastepaper is collected during normal refuse collection.

Rodent Control

The following is an extract from the statistics supplied to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the year ending 31st March, 1959.

Number of properties	...	...	1,157
Number of properties surveyed	...	...	21
Number of properties infested and treated	...	...	8

Inspection of Meat and other Foods.

Number of Registered Food Premises

(a)	Retailers of Ice Cream	...	...	...	30
(b)	Preparation and Manufacture of Sausages and Preserved Foods, etc	...	...	...	3

Number of Informal (including Verbal) Notices served (Food and Drugs Act - Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955) ... .. 4

Number of Food Premises improved as a result of notices served 3

Six sheep were slaughtered and inspected and no significant disease or condition was detected.

Unsound Food Surrendered

Canned Food (Various)	...	...	29 lbs
Chippolatas	...	...	12 lbs.

Unsound food is disposed of at the Council's refuse tip.

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 (Part III)

Number of registered distributors	...	...	...	2
Number of registered dairies	...	...	...	3

Renovations were carried out to one retail shop during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provision as to health  
(including inspection made by Public Health Inspector)

Premises	Number on Reg- ister	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
i) Factories in which Section 1,2,3, 4, and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	-	-
ii) Factories not included in (i) which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	13	10	-	-
iii) Other premises in which Section 7, is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	12	20	1	-
Total	26	31	1	-



Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Convenience					
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
	1	1	-	-	-

